

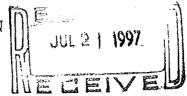
BEFORE THE

A.O. PUBLIC SERVICE PARMISSION

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF C. ALAN BLACKMON

DOCKET NO: 97-153-E



- 1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.
- 2 A. My name is Alan Blackmon. My business address is Post Office
- 3 Pickens, South Carolina 29671.
- 4 Q. BY WHOM AND IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU EMPLOYED?
- 5 A. I am employed by Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative as the Manager of
- 6 Engineering.
- 7 Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY OUTLINE YOUR EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE IN
- 8 THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY.
- 9 A. I received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from Georgia Institute of
- Technology in 1977.
- 11 I served as the System Planning Engineer for Blue Ridge from 1985 to 1987, and
- then as Manager of Engineering for Blue Ridge from March 1985 to the present.
- Prior to working with Blue Ridge, I worked as a consultant to electric utilities for
- 14 Southern Engineering.
- 15 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?
- 16 A. The purpose of my testimony is to express the strong objection of Blue Ridge
- 17 Electric Cooperative regarding the activities of Duke Power Company ("Duke")
- with regard to its efforts to provide electric service to a customer located within

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19		our assigned service territory. The Nason Plant is located adjacent to South
20		Carolina Highway 11, near the town of Walhalla.
21	Q.	WHAT ACTION DID YOU TAKE WHEN YOU LEARNED ABOUT DUKE
22		POWER'S EFFORT TO SERVE THE NASON PLANT?
23	A.	I directed Barney Drake, Senior Engineer for Blue Ridge, to perform an
24		engineering review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the Nason Plant's
25		need for electric service. A Blue Ridge employee requested assistance in
26		determining what size transformer would be needed to serve the plant at the time
27		of operation. We obtained load information from Duke Power on an existing
28		Nason Plant that was similar in size and located in Duke Power's assigned
29		territory. We learned that the existing Nason Plant only peaked at approximately
30		18KW and a review of the electrical panel schedule from Nason for the new plant
31		listed the panel connected load as 335kva.
32	Q.	WHO INFORMED NASON OFFICIALS THAT THEY COULD CHOOSE
33		DUKE POWER TO SERVE A CUSTOMER IN BLUE RIDGE ASSIGNED
34		TERRITORY?
35	A.	Duke Power has apparently assured Nason officials that it could provide electric
36		service to the Nason Plant based on a claim of corridor rights associated with a
37		44kv transmission line.
38	Q.	WHAT IS BLUE RIDGE'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO DUKE'S
39		CLAIM THAT IT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SERVE NASON BASED ON
40		CORRIDOR RIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE 44KV LINE?

41	A.	Blue Ridge strongly opposes the position taken by Duke Power in this matter.
42		As shown in the testimony of Barney Drake, the 44kv line in question was built
43		approximately 25 years ago to serve as a transmission tie line between
44		Westminster and Walhalla. It is Blue Ridge's position that the Public Service
45		Commission should look to the purpose of the line at the time it was constructed
46		and reject any effort to recharacterize a transmission line to a distribution line.
47		If the Public Service Commission were to adopt Duke Power's position on this
48		matter, it could open up a flood gate of hearings regarding other transmission lines
49		that pass through the assigned territories of all electric suppliers in South Carolina.
50		It is our position that Duke Power is attempting to circumvent the Territorial
51		Assignment Act of 1969. In addition, the South Carolina Code of Laws directs
52		the Commission to examine the "primary purpose and use" of a line. Duke Power
53		cannot argue that it built the 44kv line 25 years ago in order to provide electric
54		service to the Nason Plant in 1997.
55	Q.	HAS DUKE POWER SOUGHT ANY CERTIFICATE FROM THE PUBLIC
56		SERVICE COMMISSION FOR CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE TO
57		NASON?
58	A.	No. I have been unable to find any request by Duke Power to seek approval for
59		its attempts to provide construction and services to the Nason industrial premises
60		as required under R.103-304 of the Commission's regulations for electric utilities.
61	Q.	HAS BLUE RIDGE VOICED ITS OBJECTION TO DUKE POWER
62.		COMPANY AND TO NASON OFFICIALS REGARDING DUKE'S

63		EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO THE NEW NASON
64		PLANT?
65	A.	Yes. Blue Ridge has notified both Duke and Nason of its strenuous objections
66		to the construction of facilities and provision of service by Duke Power. Duke
67		Power continued to ignore the objections of Blue Ridge until such time as Blue
68		Ridge filed its emergency Petition for Rule to Show Cause and Petition for
69		Immediate Cease and Desist Order with the Public Service Commission in April
70		of 1997.
71	Q.	WHAT IS YOUR REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE
72		COMMISSION?
73	A.	Based upon my examination of this matter, the Commission should reject any
74		effort by Duke Power to serve the Nason Plant. The property in question is
75		assigned to Blue Ridge and involves a new industrial premise "initially requiring
76		electric service after July 1, 1969" as established by South Carolina Code §58-27-
77		610 et seq. Duke's effort to characterize its 44kv transmission line as a
78		distribution line is simply an effort to invade the service territory assigned to Blue
79		Ridge. Duke is apparently prepared to duplicate Blue Ridge's distribution line

81 capable of meeting the electrical needs of the Nason Plant. The Territorial

which is currently in place, immediately adjacent to the Nason property and fully

- Assignment Act was designed and intended to avoid such wasteful duplication.
- 83 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?
- 84 A. Yes.

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